



# Department of Justice

**United States Attorney Joseph H. Hogsett  
Southern District of Indiana**

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## **HOGSETT REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO SOUTHERN INDIANA LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS**

*United States Attorney Rides with Jeffersonville and New Albany Police Officers to personally observe areas with higher crime rates*

### **PRESS RELEASE**

JEFFERSONVILLE - United States Attorney Joseph H. Hogsett held a press conference in Jeffersonville this morning to discuss results from the ongoing Violent Crime Initiative (VCI). Announced by Hogsett in March of this year, the initiative represents a comprehensive district-wide strategy to combat drug traffickers and criminals that use and carry firearms in their illegal activities through improved local collaboration and aggressive federal prosecution.

“Already this year, more than fifty law enforcement officers across this country have given their lives in the line of duty,” Hogsett said. “Nineteen of those were at the hands of ambush-style attacks, the same type of attack that nearly took the lives of two Jeffersonville Police Department officers in 2009. This is unacceptable, and that is, in no small measure, why earlier this year I prioritized our office’s efforts against violent crime.”

Last night, as part of the Violent Crime Initiative, Hogsett rode shifts with officers from both the New Albany and the Jeffersonville Police Departments. Hogsett noted that these “ride-alongs” help him identify the problems faced by law enforcement in some of southern Indiana’s most challenged neighborhoods. Since March, Hogsett has traveled to all sixty counties in the southern district of Indiana, meeting with law enforcement officers and promoting federal-local cooperation in prosecuting repeat violent offenders – the “worst of the worst” – with federal charges when appropriate.

“Our Violent Crime Initiative is already producing significant results,” Hogsett said. “By improving communication and collaboration with our hardworking local law enforcement partners, we’re making considerable strides toward reducing violent crime in our communities.”

In the last year, the VCI has resulted in a dramatic increase in the number of gun-related charges – from 14 felony possession of a firearm charges in 2010 to 72 already in 2011. Major drug trafficking indictments are up 100% from where they were two years ago. And the United States Attorney’s Office has seized more than \$3.6 million in assets from drug traffickers this year, which is five times more than was seized in 2010.

Hogsett explained why he believes targeting the illegal use of firearms will ultimately help make Indiana’s streets safer for both residents and the law enforcement officers who protect them: “We are sending a serious message that if you are the ‘worst of the worst,’ if you are terrorizing your community or threatening the safety of law enforcement officials, you are going to face federal charges and you are going to prison for a long, long time. And if you assist the ‘worst of the worst,’ if you lie or provide help to these criminals, you are going to face federal charges all the same, and you are going to prison for a long, long time.”

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